

M I C H I G A N  
**Primary Care**  
A S S O C I A T I O N

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
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August 5, 1998

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The Honorable William E. Kennard, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, NW - Room 222  
Washington, D.C. 20544  
Attn: Commission Secretary Magalie Roman Sales

Dear Chairman Kennard:

On behalf of the members of the Michigan Primary Care Association, I am writing to comment on the proposed consolidation of the Rural Health Care Corporation, Schools and Libraries Corporation (SLC), and Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) into one entity.

The Michigan Primary Care Association is an advocacy organization representing community and migrant health centers throughout the state. A great many of our centers are located in rural areas where access to adequate telecommunications services is limited and often cost-prohibitive. Our centers are increasingly relying on telecommunications to assist them in delivering appropriate care to the populations they serve.

While we applaud the FCC for their thoughtful efforts to comply with the congressional mandate to consolidate the above three corporations into one entity, we are deeply concerned that there will be only one rural health care representative on the eighteen-member board of the new corporation. The unique needs of the health care community deserve to be fully represented as we move forward in the emerging telehealth arena. This is especially important with regard to delivery of health services to rural America.

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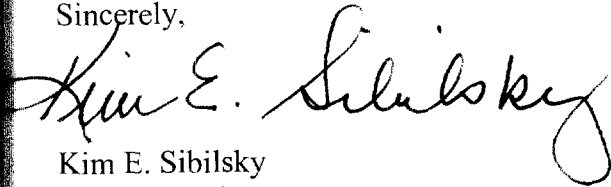
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The Honorable William E. Kennard  
August 4, 1998  
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We strongly urge you to increase the number of health care representatives on the new board, so that the voice of those who are paying into the universal service fund can be heard. Unless the health care community receives additional representation on the new Board, the FCC will not meet the goal of preserving the distinct functions, expertise, and mission of the rural health care program.

Thank you for your attention to these concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Kim E. Sibilsky". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Kim E. Sibilsky  
Executive Director

cc: Michigan Congressional Delegation